

No. 122. Hong Kong Botanic Gardens. April 4, 1925. *Tez king, Hung fa tsz king*. A beautiful tree 10 meters high, with gray to buff-colored bark and large deep-green 2-lobed leaves whose shape suggests the common English name, "camel's foot." The deep-red flowers of this species are enormous compared with those of the other species known here (being as much as 7 centimeters in diameter), and are borne abundantly. They occur in long spikes, opening one floret at a time progressively from the bottom. The species is not known to have produced fruits here, the pistil dropping from the receptacle with the rest of the flower. Mr. Green, the superintendent of the gardens, says he has tried hand pollinating without success. The advantage of this species as far as the conditions here are concerned is that it is evergreen, its foliage being very healthy and verdant throughout the year, and that its flowers open during the winter months before the advent of the June bugs (usually in March or April), from whose voracious appetites no ornamental is immune. (*McClure*.)

**63969. ORYZA SATIVA L. Poaceae.**

**Rice.**

From Bangkok, Siam. Seeds presented by Phya Sihasakti Snidvongs, Director of Agriculture, through Dr. H. M. Smith, director Siamese Bureau of Fisheries. Received June 15, 1925.

A locally grown strain.

**63970 and 63971. SESBAN spp. Fabaceae.**

From Pretoria, Union of South Africa. Seeds presented by I. B. Pole Evans, chief, division of botany. Received June 18, 1925.

**63970. SESBAN AEGYPTIACUM Poir.**

A stout shrubby plant, 6 to 10 feet in height, which, according to J. F. Rock (The Leguminous Plants of Hawaii, p. 154), is native in tropical Asia and northern Australia. The yellow flowers, spotted with purple, are borne in axillary clusters about 4 inches long. In Australia the leaves are much relished by livestock, and the wood is used in making charcoal for gunpowder.

**63971. SESBAN CINERASCENS Welw.**

Like the preceding, this tropical African shrub, according to Oliver (Flora of Tropical Africa, vol. 2), has yellow flowers spotted with purple. It has a graceful habit, with slender branches and compound leaves composed of 15 to 20 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are in lax clusters, and the pods are up to a foot in length.

**63972. POA FLABELLATA (Lam.) Hook. f. Poaceae. Tussock grass.**

From Kew, Surrey, England. Seeds presented by Dr. Thomas V. Chipp, Royal Botanic Gardens. Received June 18, 1925.

These seeds originally came from the Falkland Islands. (*Chipp*.)

According to Hogg (Vegetable Kingdom, p. 823), this is a coarse grass which grows on peaty soil near the sea in the Falkland

Islands. It forms dense masses of stems which frequently rise to the height of from 4 to 6 feet, and the long tapering leaves hang over gracefully in curves, from 5 to 8 feet long and an inch wide at the base. The plant is much relished by cattle, being very nutritious and containing saccharin. The inner portion of the stem a little way above the root is soft and crisp and flavored like a hazelnut; the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are very fond of it. They also boil the young shoots and eat them like asparagus.

**63973 and 63974. PHALARIS BULBOSA Just. Poaceae.**

From Paris, France. Seeds purchased from Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. Received June 22, 1925.

A perennial, tufted grass, 2 to 3 feet high, with shiny leaves about two-fifths of an inch wide, native to the Mediterranean countries. It is now cultivated in New South Wales, where it appears to be an excellent permanent winter grass for coastal and table-land districts. It is drought resistant. Seed is difficult to save on account of shattering.

**63973. No. 1.** Received as *Phalaris coerulescens*, but sample has been identified as *P. bulbosa*.

**63974. No. 2.**

**63975. PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA L. Phoenicaceae. Date palm.**

From Cairo, Egypt. Offshoots purchased through Ernest Wright and Mahmoud Bey Abaza, director of the horticultural section of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, at the request of S. C. Mason, Bureau of Plant Industry. Received June 27, 1925.

The Samany date is one of the most striking and characteristic varieties of Lower Egypt, and by the natives it is counted one of the best. The trees are very heavy bodied and have longer leaves than any other variety I have measured. In fruit the Samany is easily the most striking and peculiar of all the delta varieties. The heavy, compact bunches are borne unevenly on coarse, strong strands, the fruits being about 2½ inches long and 1½ inches broad and rather oblique. The Samany never becomes a packing date, but is gathered hard ripe and used in confections or is eaten in the rutab stage. The offshoots command the highest prices of any variety in Egypt, for the reason that they are in great demand for planting in the gardens of the new country and suburban places around Alexandria. The feature that makes the Samany of especial promise is its ability to succeed in the cool, humid climate of the coastal region. (*Mason*.)

**63976. BAMBOS sp. Poaceae. Bamboo.**

From Algiers, Algeria. Plant collected by David Fairchild, agricultural explorer, Bureau of Plant Industry. Received April 6, 1925.

Jardin d'Essais. A beautiful blue-stemmed species which is distinguished by the culm sheaths either being entirely devoid of ligules or else the ligules are very evanescent. (*Fairchild*.)